



**US Army Corps  
of Engineers®**  
New Orleans District

# News Release

Public Affairs Office, 7400 Leake Avenue  
<http://www.mvn.usace.army.mil/>

Tel. 504-862-2201  
Fax 504-862-1724

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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: John Hall, 504-862-2201  
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### **Bettering playgrounds in N.O.'s Lower 9<sup>th</sup> Ward** *Corps, City, Friends of NORD team up near new-lock construction*

NEW ORLEANS – Responding to a neighborhood recommendation, the New Orleans Recreation Department, Friends of NORD Foundation and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers have agreed to renovate the nine playgrounds in neighborhoods near the construction of a new Industrial Canal Lock.

“The Community Based Mitigation Committee, which makes recommendations to the Corps on helping neighborhoods impacted by the lock replacement project, has placed a high priority on park and playground improvements. The Corps, NORD and the Friends of NORD Foundation and its Playground Project Program have developed a five-year, \$1.25 million plan for the renovations,” said Jackie Purrington, a Corps project manager.

Mayor Ray Nagin; City Council members; directors of NORD and Friends of NORD; Col. Peter J. Rowan, New Orleans district engineer, and others will take part in groundbreaking ceremonies Saturday, June 28. Ceremonies will begin at noon at F.P. Jackson Playground and move to nearby Roffignac Playground. The public is invited.

“The Corps is really building a track record of community involvement and improvements in the lock neighborhoods,” said Nancy Broadhurst, executive director of Friends of NORD.

Federal expenditures for the playgrounds will begin next fiscal year, starting Oct. 1, 2003. The mitigation committee was formed to make recommendations to the Corps on how to use \$38 million authorized by Congress to serve the neighborhoods to be impacted over the years of lock-replacement construction. The committee represents the Lower 9<sup>th</sup> Ward, Bywater, Holy Cross and St. Claude neighborhoods.

The mitigation program is part of the \$655 million lock replacement project. A larger, modern lock will provide more efficient transit for barges and small ships between the Mississippi River and the Industrial Canal and eastbound Gulf Intracoastal Waterway.

**Lock project page** <http://www.mvn.usace.army.mil/prj/ihnc/index.asp>  
**Mitigation committee page** <http://www.communitymitigation.org/>